

II. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A system for matching one or more abbreviations and one or more definitions, comprising:

an abbreviation pattern generation process that creates one or more abbreviation patterns representing candidate abbreviations, each of the one or more abbreviation patterns being a template that indicates a number and a location of characters and numeric strings within a candidate abbreviation; and

a definition pattern generation process that creates one or more definition patterns representing candidate definitions, each of the one or more definition patterns being a template that indicates a number and a location of numeric strings, stopwords, prefix/headword combinations and base words within a candidate definition.

2. (Currently Amended) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

a set of abbreviation rules that correlate abbreviation patterns to definition patterns using one or more formation rules that define how each character in an abbreviation is formed from a definition, the set of abbreviation rules including abbreviation rules that have been automatically generated based on candidate abbreviations and definition patterns that have previously been determined as matches by the system;

a lookup process that selects one or more formation rules, being selected formation rules,

corresponding to the abbreviation pattern of the candidate abbreviation and the definition pattern of the candidate definition; and

a rule application process that applies the selected formation rules to determine which candidate definitions match the candidate abbreviation.

3. (Original) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

one or more matching algorithms that match one or more pairs of abbreviations and definitions based on the abbreviation patterns and the definition patterns.

4. (Original) A system, as in claim 2, further comprising:

one or more matching algorithms that match one or more pairs of abbreviations and definitions based on the abbreviation patterns and the definition patterns.

5. (Original) A system, as in claim 4, where rule application process and the matching algorithm apply both rule based and non rule based matching processes to match one or more abbreviations and one or more definitions.

6. (Original) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

a method for specifying pairs, each of which contains a candidate abbreviation and a candidate definition, for each pair generating an abbreviation patterns and a definition pattern.

7. (Original) A system, as in claim 6, where the pairs include one or more of the following:

a user input pair,

an existing abbreviation database pair, and

a pair produced by a program interface.

8. (Original) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

an abbreviation recognition process that finds one or more candidate abbreviations in text.

9. (Original) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

a definition finding process that locates one or more candidate definitions corresponding to the candidate abbreviation.

10. (Original) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

a best match selection process that chooses a best candidate definition from the matched candidate definitions using one or more criteria.

11. (Original) A system, as in claim 10, further comprising:

a best match selection mechanism that employs one or more weighting features.

12. (Previously Presented) A system, as in claim 11, where the weighting features may include one or more of the followings:

syntactic cues found in the context,
rule priority of the formation rule that matched the pair,
the distance of the abbreviation and the definition,
capitalization of the definition,
number of words in the definition, and
number of stopwords in the definition.

13. (Previously Presented) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

an output process that outputs the candidate abbreviation and the matched candidate definition as confirmed pairs.

14. (Original) A system, as in claim 2, where the formation rule that produced the best candidate definition is weighted better due to the choice of the best candidate definition.

15. (Original) A system, as in claim 2, further comprising:

a process for adding new abbreviation rules in the existing set of abbreviation rules.

16. (Currently Amended) A system, as in claim 2, further comprising:

a mechanism for automatically generating one or more new abbreviation rules when no formation rules successfully match high-quality pairs of candidate abbreviations and definitions.

17. (Previously Presented) A system, as in claim 16, further comprising:

a process for automatically adding the created abbreviation rules to the existing set of abbreviation rules.

18. (Original) A system, as in claim 2, further comprising:

a rule generation process for generating abbreviation rules from pairs of abbreviations and definitions.

19. (Original) A system, as in claim 1, further comprising:

a set of layered matching algorithms which are based on the relationship between the lengths of abbreviation patterns and the lengths of definition patterns.

20. (Original) A system, as in claim 19, where each algorithm in the layered matching mechanism is applied in priority sequence.

21. (Currently Amended) A system for matching one or more abbreviations and one or more definitions, comprising:

means for generating one or more abbreviation patterns representing candidate abbreviations, each of the one or more abbreviation patterns being a template that indicates a number and a location of characters and numeric strings within a candidate abbreviation; and

means for generating one or more definition patterns representing candidate definitions, each of the one or more definition patterns being a template that indicates a number and a

location of numeric strings, stopwords, prefix/headword combinations and base words within a candidate definition.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for matching one or more abbreviations and one or more definitions, comprising:

generating one or more abbreviation patterns representing candidate abbreviations, each of the one or more abbreviation patterns being a template that indicates a number and a location of characters and numeric strings within a candidate abbreviation; and

generating one or more definition patterns representing candidate definitions, each of the one or more definition patterns being a template that indicates a number and a location of numeric strings, stopwords, prefix/headword combinations and base words within a candidate definition.